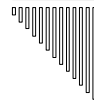


# Collocations, idioms & phrases

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1



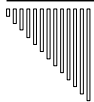
## Structure

- Definitions
  - Compounds in general
  - Collocations
- Types of Collocations
  - Grammatical collocations
  - Semantical & lexical C.
- Collocations in Monolingual Dictionaries
- Idioms

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## Definitions: Compounds in general

- formed by joining two or more root morphemes or combining forms into a single lexeme
- often idiomatic in meaning or not entirely transparent
  - e.g. Seat belt

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3



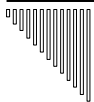
## Definitions: Collocations

- group of words, with a certain meaning which tend to occur together
- term collocation refers to the act of putting together of items, in this case lexical items and to the combination of words thus obtained
- Collocation= note+ collocate
- word with a certain meaning which occurs in a collocation along with a given word is called a **COLLOCATE** of that word

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## Types of Collocations: Grammatical collocations

- frequently occurring combination of a dominant word (noun, adjective or verb) and a function word (often a preposition)
  - typical verb collocations: abstain from, approve of (phrasal verbs)
  - noun collocations: admiration for, amazement at
  - adjective collocations: absent from, afraid of, angry with
- this type of collocation often an alternative to other constructions

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## Types of Collocations: Semantical & lexical C.

- also consist of a groups of words with a certain meaning which occur together
- but they consist of words which have an approximately equal status
- set of collocates for a given word can form nearly unlimited classes
  - e.g. Run with object: a business, a company, also a gym, a pizza parlour
- but if you look at other verbs with similar meanings the group of collocates is more restricted
  - e.g. Manage

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6

## Collocations in monolingual dictionaries

- lexical collocations: in external appearance they therefore differ only slightly from some types of construction information
- semantical collocations relate to the content aspect, therefore they should not be shown in examples

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7

## Collocations in monolingual dictionaries

- possible collocates or the restrictions are usually contained within brackets before the definition
- also the definition can be used to list certain collocates
  - e.g. Bijou (especially of a building) small and pretty

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8

## Idioms

- *LDOCE* definition: a fixed group of words with a special meaning which is different from the meaning of the individual words
  - e.g. Kick the bucket, like chalk and cheese
- Format: essentially fixed expressions--> shown in full in dictionaries
- where choice of words can differ, all alternatives should be listed

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## Idioms

- mostly can be found under the "main" word that is not always very helpful
  - e.g. A storm in the teacup can be found under storm
- older rules: first noun or adjective or adverb or verb the idiom contains, if there's nothing like that the first word

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## Exercise

- „kick the bucket“ 20 kick the bucket *old-fashioned* to die - used humorously
- „to be like chalk and cheese“ 3 chalk and cheese *British English* completely different from each other:  
*The two brothers are as different as chalk and cheese.*  
*They're like chalk and cheese, those two.*

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## Exercise

- „storm in a teacup“ a storm in a teacup *British English* an unnecessary expression of strong feelings about something that is very unimportant
- Can you understand this „definitions“? What might be a problem with them?
- What is the relevance of collocations and idioms for dictionaries?
- How are the entries represented?

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## Conclusion exercise

- Relevance for dictionaries: dictionary making needs to be founded on collocational research
- There is often just a minimum of semantic specification and the assumption, that the collocational meanings are transparent or otherwise known to the user
- The user should just be reminded to the existence of a collocation
- Most dictionaries list a lot of meanings and give collocations to prove the existence of the meanings instead of explaining them

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13

## Conclusion exercise

- Most dictionaries list a lot of meanings and give collocations to prove the existence of the meanings instead of explaining them
- Monolingual dictionaries make greater demands to users than bilingual ones
- If you have a collocation and the user does not know the collocate he does not know if he is allowed to substitute with the equivalent of his choice

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## Conclusion exercise

- Sometimes attention to much drawn on equivalents than on paraphrasing the word group
- Many dictionaries show idioms in the same way as other examples and so the real status of them gets lost

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15

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16